1   **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

2   1.   A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus, comprising:

3   (a)   a relatively small housing adapted in size to be held in one hand by a user

4   during use;

5   (b)   a scanning input carried by said housing;

6   (c)   a display carried by said housing;

7   (d)   a controller disposed within said housing and operatively coupled to said

8   scanning input, and said display; and

9   (e)   a program composed of instructions which are executable by said controller

10   for receiving as an input text scanned by said scanning input and for

11   providing as an output on said display text which is logically related to said

12   input text in a predetermined manner.

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1 2. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said

2 program receives as an input text scanned by said scanning input and produces as an

3 output on said display at least one dictionary definition related to said input.

4 3. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said

5 program receives as an input text scanned by said scanning input and produces as an

6 output on said display at last one translation related to said input.

7 4. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said

8 relatively small housing comprises a relatively small and generally elongated housing

9 which is adapted in size and shape to be held in one hand by a user during use.

10 5. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

11   an input connection for coupling to an external keyboard, and for providing

12 textual input to said controller.

13 6. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said

14 program includes instructions which are executable by said controller for alteratively

15 receiving as an input text which is entered on a keyboard and which provides as an

16 output on said display text which is logically related to said input text in a predetermined

17 manner.

18 7. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

19   (f)   at least one user control button carried by said housing and operable for

20   providing at least one control command to said controller.

1   8.   A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

2   (f)   an audio output device carried by said housing and operatively coupled to

3   said controller; and

4   (g)   a test-to-speech module coupled between said audio output device and

5   said controller;

6   (h)   wherein said program includes program instructions for receiving as an input

7   text scanned by said scanning input and for producing as an output on said

8   audio output device an audible output which is logically related to said input

9   text in a predetermined manner.

10   9.   A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said

11   program receives as an input text scanned by said scanning input and produces as an

12   output on said audio output device at least one audible output definition related to said

13   input in a predetermined manner.

14   10.   A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said

15   program receives as an input text scanned by said scanning input and produces as an

16   output on said audio output device at last one audible output translation related to said

17   input in a predetermined manner.

18   11.   A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 8, further comprising:

19   an input connection for coupling to an external keyboard, and for providing

20   textual input to said controller; and

21   wherein said program includes instructions which are executable by said

22   controller for alteratively receiving as an input text which is entered on a keyboard and

23   which provides as an output on said display text which is logically related to said input

24   text in a predetermined manner.

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12. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus, according to Claim 1, further comprising:

    (f)   a microphone input operatively coupled to said controller;

    (g)   a speech-to-text module for receiving a voice input from said microphone input and for providing a corresponding text input to said controller; and

    (h)   wherein said program includes program instructions for receiving as an input the output of said speech-to-text module and for producing as an output at least one of (a) an audible output on said audio output device which is logically related to said input text in a predetermined manner; and (b) a text output on said display which is logically related to said input text in a predetermined manner.

13. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said program produces as an output at least one definition related to said input.

14. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said program receives an output at least one translation related to said input.

15. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 12, further comprising:

    an input connection for coupling to an external keyboard, and for providing textual input to said controller; and

    wherein said program includes instructions which are executable by said controller for alteratively receiving as an input text which is entered on a keyboard and which provides an audible output on said audio output device which is logically related to said input text in a predetermined manner.

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1   16.   A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

2   (g)   a paging module operatively coupled to said controller.

3   17.   A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising;

4   (f)   a set of program instructions executable by said controller for generating a
5   touch screen graphical user input for receiving at least one input from user
6   interaction with said display.